Swedish Submarine Builders Deal with Pakistan

1627. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Swedish submarine builders-KOCKUMS is entering into a deal with Pakistan for the supply of submarines costing nearly a billion dollars; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to deter the Swedish company not to do so in the interest of peace in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of efforts by Pakistan to acquire submarines from various countries including Sweden to augment its naval strength. According to information available, however, no deal has been finalised so far.

Our concerns about any arms sale to Pakistan disproportionate to Pakistan's legitimate needs have been conveyed to all concerned including the Swedish Government. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

American Nationals Secret Meeting with the Militants of Kashmir

1628. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the American nationals visited Kashmir in September, 1993, posing as Cable News Network team and held secret meetings with top militants there;

(b) if so, what action was taken by Government against these two persons;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with US Government, if so, the details thereof and reaction of U.S. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government immediately informed US Cd'A about the clandestine activities of the US nationals. The matter was taken up with the local Bureau of CNN in Delhi as well as their head office at Atlanta. CNN office in Delhi has since denied having deputed anyone to visit Kashmir and has put out a word of caution on their network against such deception. The Foreign Correspondents Club of South Asia has passed a resolution deploring the masquerade by the US nationals as journalists. There has been no official reaction from the US Government.

अब्दुल गनी लोन की गिरफ्तारी

1629. **श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान:** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय अलगाववादी जिसे उग्रवादी "अब्दुल गनी लोन" के रूप में जाना जाता है, अभी भी कश्मीर में रह रहा है;

(ख) क्या अमरीकी असिस्टेन्ट सेक्रेटरी आफ स्टेट सुश्री राविन राफेल ने यह कहा है कि अमरीका पिछले 18 माह से इस व्यक्ति विशेष के साथ निरन्तर सम्पर्क बनाए हुए है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार अब्दुल गनी लोन के पासपोर्ट को रद्द कर उसे अविलम्ब गिरफ्तार करेगी यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में एक कड़ा विरोध पत्र देना चाहती है, यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल

पाटिया): (क) से (घ) अब्दुल गनी लोन जो कि एक अलगाववाद का हामी राजनीति का सक्रिय कार्यकर्त्ता है और जिसके विदेश से प्रायोजित सैनिक गुटों से संबंध है, साधारणतः जम्मू और कश्मीर का निवासी है। इस वर्ष के शुरू में वह युनाइटेड किंगडम गया था और बाद में चिकित्सा उपचार के नाम पर ही अमरीका चला गया। वह जून, 1993 में भारत लौटा था।

सरकार को अमरीकी सहायक मंत्री रोबिन रैफल के बयान की जानकारी है जो उन्होंने अक्तूबर, 1993 में प्रतिनिधि सभा एशिया एवं प्रशान्त उप समिति के समक्ष दिया था और जिसमें यह कहा था कि अब्दुल गनी लोन "कश्मीरियों के ग्रुप का एक सदस्य है" जिससे अमरीका ने "पिछले डेढ़ वर्ष में विभिन्न स्थलों पर" बातचीत की है।

अब्दुल गनी लोन को 19 अक्तूबर, 1993 को श्रीनगर में उस समय गिरफ्तार किया गया था जबकि सशस्त्र उग्रवादियों ने श्रीनगर में हजरतबल मस्जिद पर कब्जा कर रखा था और इसी सिलसिले में लागू निषेधाज्ञा का वह उल्लंघन कर रहा था। बाद में उसे एक आज्ञा के अधीन 29 अक्तूबर, 1993 को नजरबंद कर लिया गया जो जम्मू और कश्मीर सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 1978 के अन्तर्गत जम्मू एवं कश्मीर राज्य की सरकार द्वारा जारी किया गया था। वह अब भी नजरबन्द है।

सरकार इस मामले में कोई विरोध प्रकट करना आवश्यक नहीं समझती।

Assistance Collected for Earthquake Victims from UAE and other Gulf Countries

1630. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 2nd October, 1993 to the affect that a large number of Indian expatriates living in UAE and other Gulf states have begun to collect assistance in the form of food, medicines and cash for displaced people in the earthquake hit areas of Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to contact them for seeking assistance given by them on humanitarian grounds; and

(c) the names of the countries which have come forward voluntarily to extend all help to India to tide over the unprecedented situation created by the recent earthquake in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian groups and associations in Gulf states have voluntarily made collections and donated whatever they had collected, in kind as well as in cash. Most of these donations have been sent through the good offices of the Indian Missions.

(c) Government to Government assistance has been provided by the following countries so far: Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, U.K., Sweden, Luxemburg, Hong Kong, Japan, Algeria, U.S.A., Kuwait, U.A.E., Turkey, Pakistan, Germany, Nauru, Mangolia, Bhutan, Maldives, Israel, Cuba, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Australia, Denmark, Qatar, Nepal.

Assistance through NGOs, National Red Cross Societies etc., was received from the following countries:—

Austria, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, France, U.A.E., Canada, Sweden, Thailand, U.S.A., Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Korea (ROK), New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Switzerland.

Computerisation at Passport Office in Ahmedabad

1631. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced the computer-system at passport office in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) taking into consideration the heavy rush of applications;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and